

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A work management system ~~having in which a work management apparatus for transmitting and receiving information, over a network, between is~~ connected to a plurality of ~~user-portable~~ terminals, said ~~work-management~~ apparatus comprising:

a settled shift table sending unit ~~configured to distribute~~ which distributes a settled shift table in which work schedules of employees are settled to corresponding ~~user-portable~~ terminals;

a recruiting information generation unit ~~configured to which~~, in a case in which cancellation information requesting cancellation of the work schedule is sent from a ~~user portable~~ terminal to which the settled shift table has been sent, ~~generate~~ generates additional recruiting information for recruiting a new employee;

a recruiting information sending unit ~~configured to send~~ which sends the additional recruiting information generated by said recruiting information generation unit to the ~~user portable~~ terminals ~~of employees who can apply for the cancelled schedule~~ which are specified as sending destinations for urgent recruiting; and

an application information reception unit ~~configured to receive~~ which receives application information sent from arbitrary ~~user-portable~~ terminals in response to the additional recruiting information sent by said recruiting information sending unit,

wherein

the portable terminals to which the settled shift table may be distributed comprise:

a reception unit which receives the settled shift table distributed from said management apparatus, and
a sending unit which sends the cancellation information for canceling the work schedule indicated in the settled shift table received by said reception unit to said management apparatus; and
the portable terminals to which the additional recruiting information may be sent
comprise:

a reception unit which receives the additional recruiting information sent from said management apparatus, and
a sending unit which sends the application information for applying for the additional recruiting information received by said reception unit to said management apparatus.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A work management system ~~having a work in which~~
~~a management apparatus for transmitting and receiving information, over a network, between~~
~~is connected to~~ a plurality of ~~user portable~~ terminals, said work management apparatus
comprising:

a recruiting information generation unit ~~configured to which~~, in a case in which staff
vacancies arise amounting to a predetermined number of employees in a settled shift table in
which work schedules of employees are settled, ~~set~~ sets a number of employees to be
recruited and an additional recruiting period to generate additional recruiting information for
recruiting new employees;

a recruiting information sending unit ~~configured to send~~ which sends the additional recruiting information generated by said recruiting information generation unit to the ~~user~~ portable terminals of employees who can apply to fill the vacancies;

an application information reception unit ~~configured to receive~~ which receives application information sent from arbitrary ~~user~~ portable terminals in response to the additional recruiting information sent by said recruiting information sending unit; and

a recruiting processing unit ~~configured to~~ which, in a case in which a number of applicants based on the application information received by said application information reception unit does not reach the number of employees to be recruited, ~~send~~ sends a notification information to a person in charge, and ~~to execute~~ executes an urgent-shift making routine,

wherein the portable terminals to which the additional recruiting information may be sent comprise:

a reception unit which receives the additional recruiting information sent from said management apparatus, and

a sending unit which sends the application information for applying for the additional recruiting information received by said reception unit to said management apparatus.

Claim 37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A work management apparatus for generating a shift table indicating times in which employees are scheduled to work, comprising:

a file memory ~~configured to store~~ which stores an employee information file retaining employee information on employees, and work management file retaining management information for setting work contents of said employees;

a temporary shift table generation unit ~~configured to generate~~ which generates a temporary shift table in which scheduled work times of employees are temporarily set, based on the employee information and the management information;

a temporary shift table sending unit ~~configured to send~~ which sends the temporary shift table generated by said temporary shift table generation unit to a plurality of ~~user~~ portable terminals over a network;

a response information reception unit ~~configured to receive~~ which receives, over the network, response information sent from said plurality of ~~user~~ portable terminals in response to the temporary shift table sent by said temporary shift table sending unit;

a settled shift table generation unit ~~configured to generate~~ which generates a settled shift table in which schedule work times of employees are settled based on the response information received by said response information reception unit; and

a settled shift table sending unit ~~configured to send~~ which automatically sends the settled shift table generated by said settled shift table generation unit to said plurality of ~~user~~ portable terminals over the network.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The work management apparatus according to claim 38, wherein:

in a case in which there is a shortage of employees available when generating a temporary shift table, said temporary shift table generation unit generates a temporary shift

table to which recruiting information for recruiting a required number of employees to fill the shortage is added; and

said temporary shift table sending unit sends the temporary shift table to which the recruiting information is added to portable terminals which are specified as sending destinations for urgent recruiting; and

in a case in which the response information is information representing application for the recruiting information added to the temporary shift table, said settled shift table generation unit generates a settled shift table in which the applying employees are assigned as employees to fill the shortage.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The work management apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising:

a cancellation information reception unit ~~configured to~~ which, in a case in which cancellation information requesting cancellation of a work schedule is sent from an arbitrary ~~user-portable~~ terminal among ~~user-portable~~ terminals to which said settled shift table sending unit has sent the settled shift table, ~~receive~~ receives the cancellation information over the network;

a recruiting information generation unit ~~configured to~~ which, in a case in which said cancellation information reception unit receives the cancellation information, ~~generate~~ generates recruiting information for recruiting a new employee in response to the received cancellation information;

a recruiting information sending unit ~~configured to send~~ which sends the recruiting information generated by said recruiting information generation unit to the ~~user-portable~~

~~terminals of employees who can apply for the canceled work schedule~~ which are specified as
sending destinations for urgent recruiting over the network; and

an application information reception unit ~~configured to receive~~ which receives, over
the network, application information sent from an arbitrary ~~user~~ portable terminal in response
to the recruiting information sent by said recruiting information sending unit,

wherein:

said settled shift table generation unit updates the settled shift table in accordance
with the application information received by said application information reception unit; and

said settled shift table sending unit sends the settled shift table updated by said settled
shift table generation unit to the ~~user~~ portable terminal having sent the application
information.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The work management apparatus according to claim
38, further comprising:

a display unit ~~configured to displays~~ which displays a setting screen from which
maintenance of the employee information and the management information are entered is
performed; and

an input unit ~~configured to acquire~~ which acquires information input from the setting
screen displayed on said display unit;

wherein said file memory ~~stores~~ registers/updates the employee information in the
employee information file and the management information in the work management file in
accordance with the information acquired by said input unit.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A work management method for a work management apparatus ~~for comprising a memory~~ storing employee information on employees and work management information for setting work contents of the employees ~~and a communication unit for transmitting and receiving information over a network, between a plurality of user-portable terminals, and a processing unit for controlling said memory and said communication unit,~~ said method comprising:

a temporary shift table generating step of generating, by said processing unit, a temporary shift table in which work schedules of employees are temporarily set based on the employee information and the management information stored in said memory;

a temporary shift table sending step of controlling, by said processing unit, said communication unit to send ~~sending~~ the temporary shift table generated in said temporary shift table generating step to each ~~user-portable~~ terminal over the network;

a response information receiving step of controlling, by said processing unit, said communication unit to receive ~~receiving~~, over the network, response information sent from each ~~user-portable~~ terminal in response to the temporary shift table sent in said temporary shift table sending step;

a settled shift table generating step of generating, by said processing unit, a settled shift table in which work schedule of employees are settled, in accordance with the response information received in said response information receiving step; and

a settled shift table sending step of controlling, by said processing unit, said communication unit to send ~~sending~~ the settled shift table generated in said settled shift table generating step to each ~~user-portable~~ terminal over the network.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The work management method according to claim 42, wherein:

in a case in which there is a shortage of employees available in a case in which a temporary shift table is to be generated, a temporary shift table to which recruiting information for recruiting a required number of employees to fill the shortage is added is generated in said temporary shift table generating step; ~~and~~

the temporary shift table to which the recruiting information is added is sent to portable terminals which are specified as sending destinations for urgent recruiting, in said temporary shift table sending step; and

in a case in which the response information is information representing application for the recruiting information added to the temporary shift table, a settled shift table in which the applying employees are assigned as employees to fill the shortage is generated in said settled shift table generating step.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The work management method according to claim 42, further comprising:

a cancellation information receiving step of, in a case in which cancellation information requesting cancellation of a work schedule is sent from an arbitrary ~~user~~ portable terminal among ~~user~~ portable terminals to which the settled shift table has been sent in said settled shift table sending step, controlling, by said processing unit, said communication unit to receive ~~receiving~~ the cancellation information over the network;

a recruiting information generating step of, in a case in which cancellation information is received in said cancellation information receiving step, generating, by said

processing unit, recruiting information for recruiting a new employee in response to the received cancellation information;

a recruiting information sending step of controlling, by said processing unit, said communication unit to send ~~sending~~ the recruiting information generated in said recruiting information generating step to the ~~user-portable~~ terminals of ~~employees who can apply for the canceled work schedule~~ which are specified as sending destinations for urgent recruiting; and

an application information receiving step of receiving, over the network, application information sent from an arbitrary ~~user-portable~~ terminal in response to the recruiting information sent in said recruiting information sending step,

wherein:

in said settled shift table generating step, the settled shift table is updated in accordance with the application information received in said application information receiving step, and

in said settled shift table sending step, the settled shift table updated in said settled shift table generating step is sent to the ~~user-portable~~ terminal having sent the application information.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for controlling a computer to function as:

a file memory ~~configured to store~~ which stores an employee information file retaining employee information on employees, and work management file retaining management information for setting work contents of said employees;

a temporary shift table generation unit ~~configured to generate~~ which generates a temporary shift table in which scheduled work times of employees are temporarily set based on the employee information and the management information;

a temporary shift table sending unit ~~configured to send~~ which sends the temporary shift table generated by said temporary shift table generation unit to a plurality of ~~user~~ portable terminals over a network;

a response information reception unit ~~configured to receive~~ which receives, over the network, response information sent from the plurality of ~~user-portable~~ terminals in response to the temporary shift table sent by said temporary shift table sending unit;

a settled shift table generation unit ~~configured to generate~~ which generates a settled shift table in which scheduled work times of employees are settled, in accordance with the response information received by said response information reception unit; and

a settled shift table sending unit ~~configured to send~~ which automatically sends the settled shift table generated by said settled shift table generation unit to the plurality of ~~user~~ portable terminals over the network.